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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/664,856	09/19/2000	Kazuhiro Hashimoto	197372US2	5426

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EXAMINER

HUYNH, KIM T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2189

DATE MAILED: 12/18/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/664,856

Applicant(s)

HASHIMOTO, KAZUHIRO

Examiner

Kim T. Huynh

Art Unit

2189

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 September 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 September 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2. 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kato et al. (U.S Patent 6,070,205)

a. As per claims 1 and 8 Kato discloses data transfer control circuit for carrying out data transfer by using a plurality of bus masters, comprising:

- a data bus connected to a peripheral apparatus and composed of a plurality of unit data buses each capable of carrying out data transfer independently; (col.3, lines 57-64)
- a plurality of bus masters each for sending a request signal requesting a use of said data bus in unit data buses, and using said data bus in unit

data buses requested when a request by means of said request signal is granted;(col.3, lines 22-30)

- a bus controller for split-controlling said data bus in unit data buses for said plurality of bus masters by giving a grant signal which grants the use of said data bus in unit data buses requested in unit data buses to said bus masters in accordance with an availability of said data bus in unit data buses. (col.7, lines 34-48), (col.8, lines 4-10)

b. As per claims 2, 9 and 16, Kato discloses bus controller gives the grant signal of the use of said data bus to said bus masters upon receipt of one of a request and release of the use of said data bus in unit data buses inputted from said bus masters. (col.14, lines 26-40)

c. As per claims 3,10 and 17, Kato discloses bus controller includes a monitor circuit for monitoring the availability of said data bus in unit data buses. (col.8, lines 4-10)

d. As per claims 4, 11 and 18, Kato discloses bus controller judges whether said data bus is available in unit data busses based on a monitoring result by said monitor circuit, and when said data bus is available, said bus controller gives, the grant signal of the use of said data bus to said bus master. (col.7, lines 34-48)

e. As per claims 5, 12 and 19, Kato discloses bus controller sends a state signal indicating the availability of said data bus in unit data buses to each of said bus masters based on a monitoring result of said monitor circuit. (col.14, lines 26-40)

f. As per claims 6, 13 and 20, Kato discloses request signal includes information specifying each unit data bus in said data bus. (col.7, lines 49-62)

g. As per claims 7 and 14, Kato discloses request signal includes information specifying the number of the unit data buses in said data bus. (col.8, lines 31-40)

h. As per claim 15, Kato discloses a method of carrying out data transfer by using a plurality of bus masters, comprising the steps of:

- generating a request signal requesting a use of a data bus in unit data buses in each of a plurality of bus masters and sending said each request signal to a bus controller, said data bus being connected to a peripheral apparatus and composed of a plurality of unit data buses each capable of carrying out data transfer independently;(col.7, lines 15-24)
- sending, in response to said request signal, a grant signal granting the use of said data bus in unit data buses requested in unit data buses to said bus master in accordance with an availability of said data bus in unit data buses; (col.7, lines 15-24)
- occupying said data bus granted by said grant signal in unit data buses, and carrying out data transfer by using the unit data buses thus occupied. (col.7, lines 15-24)

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Lee et al. [USPN 6,323,755] discloses mechanism for selectively coupling the plurality of master buses.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kim Huynh whose telephone number is (703)305-5384 or via e-mail addressed to [kim.huynh3@uspto.gov]. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30AM- 6:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Rinehart can be reached on (703) 305-4815 or via e-mail addressed to [mark.rinehart@uspto.gov]. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)746-7249 for regular communications and (703)746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)306-5631.

Kim Huynh

Dec. 15, 2002

SUMATI LEFKOWITZ
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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